

**REMARKS**

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

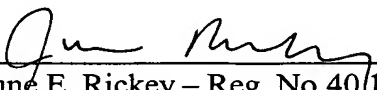
Claims 7-9 have been rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peacock (U.S. Patent 3,003,545) in view of Wada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,485,506). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 7 has been amended to include the structural limitations of a device for measuring a plurality of radial points in different locations about a circumference of the tire in each of several circumferential planes located between the tread shoulders; wherein the circumferential planes correspond to tread lugs; calculation means for determining a radial low point from the plurality of radial points in different locations for each circumferential plane and then determining a virtual tread profile from the radial low points. These structural limits are not found, taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

**Allowable Subject Matter.**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-6.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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